Southern Plains
Drought Outlook Summary

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National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

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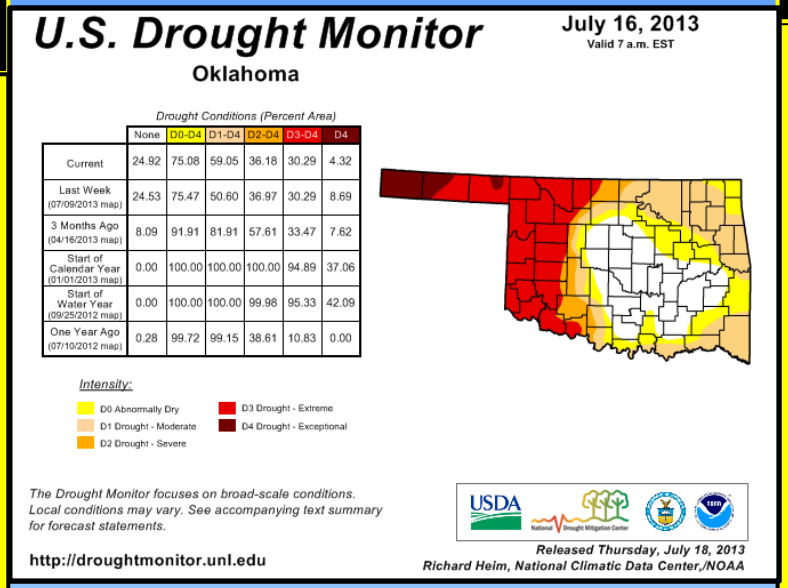
Current Drought Situation

- Oklahoma Extreme to exceptional drought confined to western quarter of state and panhandle.
- New Mexico Minor improvements as summer monsoon rains began on schedule. 86% of the state in extreme to exceptional drought … compared to 25% of the state at this time last year.
- Texas Little overall change. Minor improvements in streamflow conditions in north-central/northwest TX due to recent rainfall.

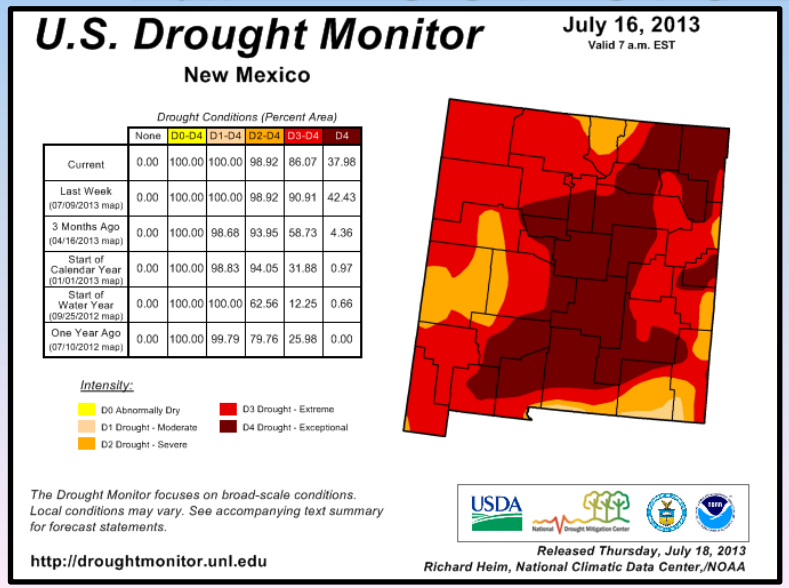


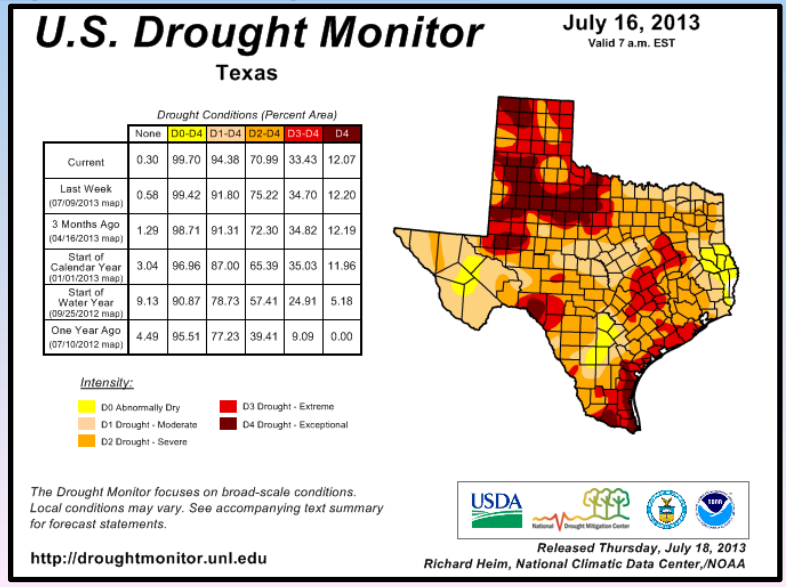
Current/Ongoing Drought Impacts

- New Mexico: 3 of the 4 largest reservoirs at less than 15% of storage capacity. The largest, Elephant Butte, is at only 3% of capacity. Low water storage on the Rio Grande is beginning to impact water availability for small towns.
- Texas: Even with recent rains, statewide reservoir capacity currently at 64%, which is 10 percentage points less than this time last year and is the lowest for this time of year since modern records began in 1990.
- Rio Grande: Recent modest rains have resulted in very little change to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Water levels remain at 25%–40% of storage capacity.
- Oklahoma: Lake Altus in southwest Oklahoma at less than 20% of storage capacity.

For Southern Plains Drought Monitor go to:

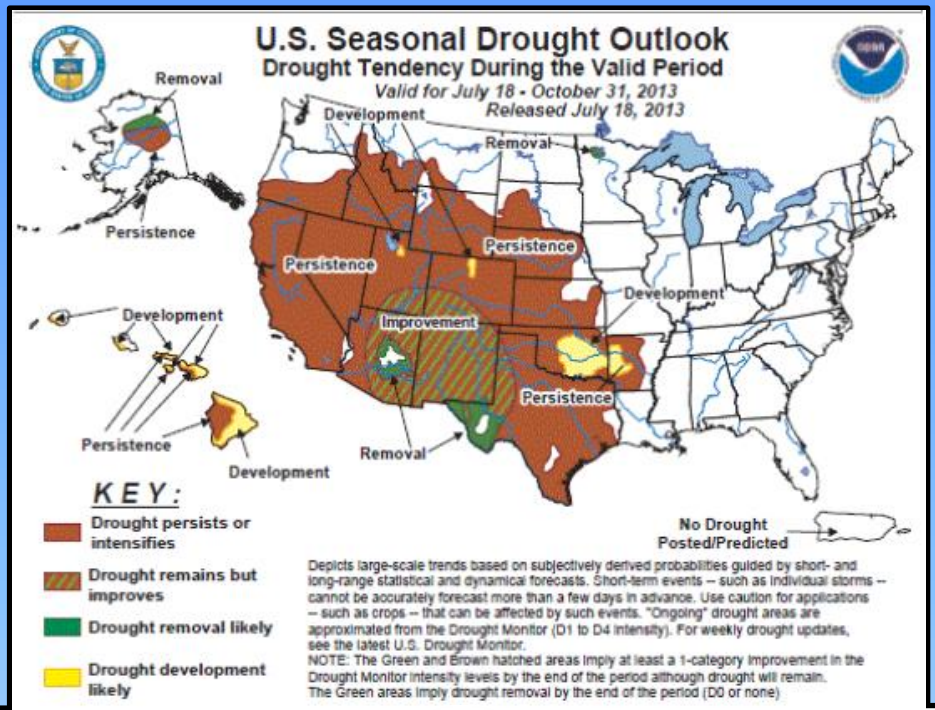
http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home





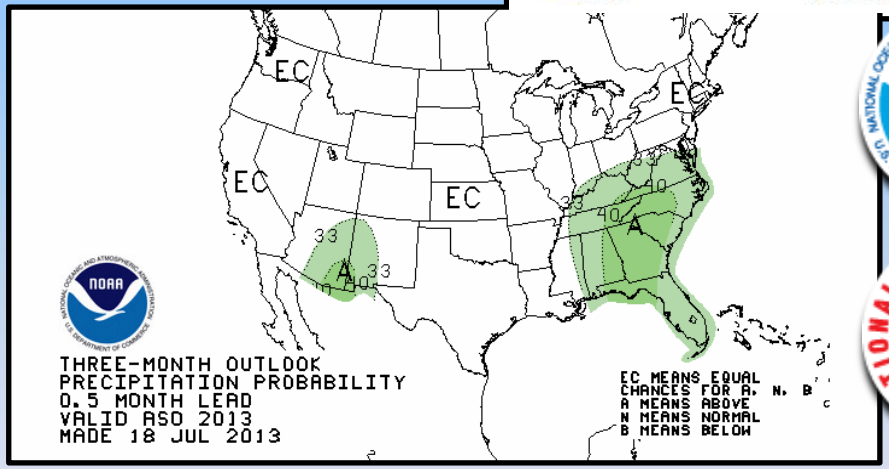
3-month Outlook Precipitation

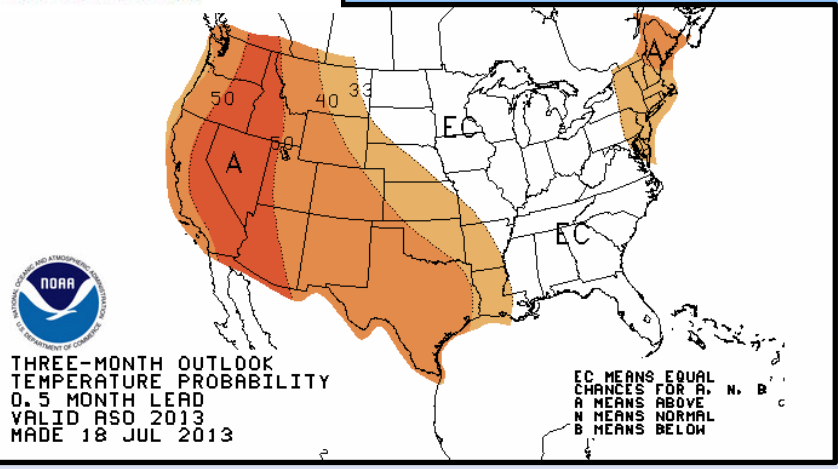
- Increased chances for Above Normal Precipitation expected for the southwest quarter of NM.
- August is the wettest month of the year for NM, accounting for 20% of yearly precipitation total.
- Equal Chances of Above Normal or Below Normal Precipitation for the remainder of NM, TX and OK.



3-month Outlook Temperature

- Increased chances for Above Normal Temperatures for all of the southern plains.
- Highest confidence of this in NM, TX, and southwest OK.
- Increased Evaporation of any rain that does fall is likely with higher temperatures … further exacerbating surface reservoir water levels.





Southern Plains Drought Summary

- **Drought conditions through October forecast to improve across all of NM, due mainly to August being the wettest month of the year. Drought improvement also forecast for far west TX.**
- **Drought forecast to persist across the remainder of TX. Drought forecast to persist and/or redevelop across OK.**

This information along with other drought resources also available on the Southern Plains drought.gov web portal

http://www.drought.gov/drought/regional-programs/southernplains/southern-plains-home

Information provided by:

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